

# MEXICO

*(See page)*  
this month.

IN THIS ISSUE:  
PRACTICAL CACTI,  
CARDIOLOGY, AND  
MEXICAN - THREE  
WAYS TO SPEAK IT

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Dept. EG  
Mexico/This Month  
Atenas 42-601  
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# Preview

## WHAT TO SEE, WHERE TO GO IN

**Labor Day, May 1** — One of the biggest national holidays in Mexico. All work stops; everything closes, including newspaper publication, and even streetcars and buses do not run for the day. Unionized workers parade to the National Palace where the President and his Ministers watch from the main balcony overlooking the Zocalo. This occasion commemorates the battle for the eight-hour day that is sometimes referred to as the "Chicago Massacre". In Mexico, as in many other countries, it has now become a great national holiday.

**Holy Cross Day, May 3** — Also a day dedicated to laborers. Construction work on all buildings ceases; the structures are adorned with flowers, usually in the form of a cross, and priests are invited to bless them. Workers celebrate on and off property, and many towns have special fairs. See *Fiestas & Spectacles*.

**Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla** — Celebrations throughout the Republic in commemoration of the defeat of the French invaders on May 5, but particularly in Puebla, Pue., the scene of the decisive battle.

**Anniversary of Hidalgo** — The birth of one of Mexico's greatest revolutionaries is celebrated on May 8.



**Mother's Day, May 10** — Virtually a national holiday since everybody loves his mother; all schools have Mother's Day Festivals, there are special masses in the churches, family reunions, gifts, etc. Sometimes this day is affectionately referred to as the "Day of the Little White Heads".

**Ibero-American Medical Congress** — From May 2 to May 11 in the National Auditorium (Paseo de la Reforma).

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## FIESTAS AND SPECTACLES

**Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Oaxaca. May 1-5.** This tropical town on Butterfly River (Papaloapan) was the birthplace of Porfirio Diaz, whose 30 year reign as President of Mexico was brought to an end by the Revolution of 1910. Commercial fair and regional folk dances.

**Cuyutlán, Colima. May 1-5.** A yearly festival. Swimming contests, regattas, floats, a carnival, beach parties, and such.

**Zacualtipán, Hidalgo. May 1-6.** Commercial fair with products of the region. *Jaripeos*, horse race, dances, and sporting events.

**Conkal, Yucatán. May 1-8.** A colonial village near Mérida, Conkal is the scene of a traditional religious fiesta during this week.

**Ozuma, State of Mexico. May 3.** A half-pagan, half Christian ritual held on the crest of Zempoalchitl Hill. Baskets, fruits, flowers and incense are all about, while hymns evoke the gods for rainfall and abundant crops, and the witchdoctor entertains the villagers with chicken mole, pulque, music and fireworks.

**Quintana Roo May 3.** A week's celebration of

MAY



### MAY climate

City	Temp. (F)	Rain (Inches)
Acapulco	83	12
Cuernavaca	74	2.1
Guadalajara	72	0.7
Guanajuato	71	1.1
Merida	82	3.2
Mexico, D. F.	65	0.2
Monterrey	78	1.7
Oaxaca	73	2.5
Puebla	66	2.9
Taxco	76	3.0
Tehuantepec	74	3.6
Veracruz	79	2.1

the Holy Cross in this extreme eastern corner of Mexico. Bullfighting, dancing, a fair and fireworks. Pigs, hens, turkeys and other animals are sacrificed outside the church. Lighted candles and sips of licor are passed around to the faithful.

**Santa Cruz de Atizapán, State of Mexico. May 3.** Holy Cross Day is celebrated here with traditional dances such as the *Pastores*, *Tecomates*, and *Arrieros*.

**Nogales, Sonora May 3-5.** Across the Rio Grande from Arizona. Flower Festival, including parade of allegorical floats adorned with spring blossoms, election of a queen, Battle of the Flowers, etc. Many Americans participate in this festival.

**Acapulco, Gro. May 3-6.** A double celebration in honor of the Holy Cross of May and in commemoration of the arrival of the first Chinese Galleon in Mexico via the Philippines (1789), establishing an interchange of commerce between Asia and Mexico.

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**Gómez Palacio, Durango. May 3-15.** May fiestas begin here with this popular fair. Natives of the region dance the famous *Plumas* and *El Arco*.

**Palmillas, Tamaulipas. May 3-15.** Traditional fiesta and popular fair beginning on Holy Cross Day

**Altotonga, Veracruz. May 5-6.** Combination patriotic and folklore festival.

**Tepoztlán, Morelos. May 6.** This quaint little village near Cuernavaca celebrates the feast of the *Chinelas* or *Brinco*, featuring gay costumes, music, rockets, banners, and dances such as the Dance of the Christians and Moors, for which Tepoztlán is especially noted.

**Tenabo, Campeche. May 8-15.** Regional dances and *vaquerías* highlight this religious celebration.

**Cárdenas, San Luis Potosí. May 10-30.** Spring Festival with Huastecan serenades, open-air concerts and dances.

**Chimaltitán, Jalisco. May 12-17.** Fiesta honoring San Pascual, patron saint of the town. Lots of *charro* events, along with bullfights, horse races, cockfights, heavy betting on all sides, and dances such as the *Jarabe Tapatio* in the main plaza.

**Tixkokob, Yucatán. May 17-22.** Traditional May festival, during which booths are set up around the colonial church to sell the delicious *antojitos* of the region. Carnival attractions and tent theaters occupy the main park and there are dances in the Municipal Palace.



**Garden of Art** — Every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the artists display their works in the Jardín del Arte in Sullivan Park (back of the Monumento a la Madre).

**Famous Mexican Artists** — Permanent exhibit of works by renowned painters as Rivera, Dr. Atl, Siqueiros, and Tamayo. Misrachi's Centro de Arte Moderno (Juárez 4).

**Oils** — Paintings by the Swiss artist Hans Enri are on display in the Galería Proteo (Génova 39, second floor). In the Sala de Arte Libre (Free Art) are works by Pedro Rodríguez.

**National Art Museum** — A large museum dedicated entirely to art. Some Salons change exhibitions frequently, others are permanent. Of special interest are:

2nd floor — Murals by Tamayo; Sala Diego Rivera; Sala de la Amistad International (usually features a foreign artist); 3rd floor — Murals by Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros, & Tamayo; landscapes by José María Velasco; a Salon devoted to contemporary painters; another with works by José Guadalupe Posada & Joaquín Clausell; Sala de Arte Mexicano (usually sculpture); 4th floor — Salón Nacional de Grabado (engravings).

On Sundays between 9 and 10:30 a.m. the famous Tiffany Glass Curtain may be seen in the main Concert Hall with various lighting effects. Museo Nacional de Artes Plásticas (Palacio de Bellas Artes).

**Modern Sculpture & Paintings** — A permanent exhibit of contemporary art by such artists as Fernando Belaín, José Bartoli, Arnold Belkin, Alberto Goronella, Francisco de Icaso, Juliette La Chaume, Xavier de Oteyza, Felipe Orlando, Socram and Toledo. From April 25 to May 25 will be featured works by sculptress Geles Cabrera, from May 25 to June 25 paintings by Pedro Coronel. Galería Tuso (Hamburgo 68).

**Modern Art** — An exhibition of paintings by four outstanding young Mexican artists may be seen at the Salón del Carmel-Art (in the Restaurant Carmel, Génova 70 A).

**Exhibition & Auction** — Works by 40 prominent Mexican painters will be displayed and then auctioned for the benefit of invalid children. Organized by Sr. Glantz, in conjunction with the Sociedad Antipoliomelitis, the exhibit and auction will be held in the Galería Glantz (Génova Bldg., Génova 70).

**Collective Exposition** — Paintings by Froylán Ojeda and Nicolás Moreno, and a collective exhibition of works by members of the Salón, with "Children" as its theme, are on display at the Salón de la Plástica Mexicana (Puebla 154).

**Painting and Sculpture** — On May 26 a joint Art Exhibit will be inaugurated, featuring works by Blanca Diez Gutiérrez and Millie Ostiz, at the Mexican-North American Cultural Institute (Hamburgo 115).

**Varied Exhibit** — A display of paintings by the most outstanding students of the famous art school "La Esmeralda" may be seen at the Galería Chapultepec (by the Monumento a los Héroes in Chapultepec Park).

**Castro Pacheco** — Exhibition of paintings by

Fernando Castro Pacheco. Galeria de Arte Mexicano (Milan 18).

Gesner Armand — Paintings by this artist are on display in the Galeria Diana (Paseo de la Reforma 489).

## MUSIC

**National Symphony Orchestra** — The orchestra's two month outdoor season continues through this month, every Sunday under the giant trees of Chapultepec Park, 11 a.m.

**Domingos Populares de la Cultura** — On Sunday mornings at 11:15 varied programs featuring music, drama, or ballet, with artists of very high calibre, are presented by the National Auditorium (Paseo de la Reforma). Please check newspapers or Auditorium for further details.

**Piano Recital** — On May 12 the Mexican-North American Cultural Institute will present David Polack, pianist, in concert at the Sala Manuel M. Ponce (Palacio de Bellas Artes), 9 p.m. In keeping with the usual policy of the Institute, the public is invited free of charge.

**Youth Concerts** — A series of 3 concerts called "La Providencia en Mexico" in the Sala Manuel M. Ponce of the Palacio de Bellas Artes every Wednesday at 9 p.m.

May 4 — Mérida, Yucatán. Piano-duo with Rosa Elena Patrón Mirales and Elys Noemi Patrón Mirales. Works by Bach, Bobin, Mozart, Brahms and Ponce.

May 11 — Morelia, Mich. Organist Francisco Domínguez Andrade, interpreting Frescobaldi, Bach, Bossi, Jiménez and Vierne.

May 18 — Guadalajara, Jal. Pianist David Vázquez Cossío with works by Mozart, Beethoven and Domingo Lobato.

**Piano Recital** — Mexican pianist Roiz will be featured in a recital in the Sala Ponce of the Palacio de Bellas Artes, Friday May 13, at 9 p.m.

**Opera** — Every Sunday during May in the Teatro del Bosque (behind the National Auditorium) at 5 p.m. Tentative program:

May 1 — Bellini's "La Sonambula"  
May 8 — Mascagni's "Amigo Fritz"  
May 15 — Rossini's "Barber of Seville"  
May 29 — Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro"

**Piano Course** — Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday Maestro Bernard Flavigny will

offer a course called "Perfeccionamiento Pianístico" in the Sala Ponce or the Palacio de Bellas Artes. (Contact the Dept. of Music at the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes to register and for further details, Tel. 18-01-80).

## DANCES

**Native dances** — Typical Mexican dances in costume with native music. Every Friday night, Hotel Vasco de Quiroga, 8:30 p.m.

**Ballet Folklórico de México** — This outstanding group continues to offer authentic ancient and regional folk dances every Sunday morning in the Palacio de Bellas Artes, 9:30 a.m.

## MUSICALS

**La Pelirroja** — Victor Herbert's musical comedy, "The Redhead", translated by Martha Fischer and directed by Luis de Llano. Stars Virma González and Armando Calva, with Nono Arzu, Alejandro Chiangherotti, and Manuel Valdez. Teatro de los Insurgentes, (Insurgentes 1587, tel. 24-58-91). Nightly

8:30; Saturdays 7 & 10; Sundays 5 & 8.

**Brigadoon** — This successful Broadway operetta has been translated into Spanish by Salvador Novo and Bertha Maldonado. Hugo Avendaño, outstanding Mexican baritone, stars, along with Graciela Garza, Miguel Suárez, Teresa Grobois, Carlos Nieto, ballet and chorus. Mario Ruiz Armengol is Musical Director. Teatro del Bosque (behind the National Auditorium, tel. 20-43-32). Nightly 8:30; Saturdays 7 & 10 p.m.; Sundays 5 & 8 p.m.

## THEATRE

**Amadeo** — A satire about love by Ionesco, directed by José Solé and featuring Pilar Souza and Carlos Ancira. Teatro Orientación (behind the National Auditorium, tel. 20-90-10). Daily 8:30 p.m., Saturdays 7:15 & 9:45; Sundays 5:00 & 8:00.

**Electra** — Sofocles' tragic classic, translated in verse and directed by Diego de Meza, with costumes and scenery by Juan Soriano. Presented by the Grupo de Poesía en Voz Alta, the cast is headed by Pina Pellicer, Ofelia Guilmain, Raúl Dantés, Mercedes Pascual and Amparo Villegas. Teatro Sul-

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**Los Cuervos Están de Luto** — Debut of a satirical comedy, typically Mexican, by the young playwright Hugo Arguelles. Presented by Fernando Fernandez and directed by Virgilio Mariel, the work stars Carmen Montejano, Alicia Montoya, Héctor Gómez, and Eric del Castillo. Teatro Jorge Negrete Artes y Altamirano, Tel. 16-51-39. Nightly 8:30; Saturdays 7:15 & 9:45; Sundays 5:00 & 8:00. Closed Mondays.

**Compañía Española de Teatro** — For the first time in Mexico, the Reyna Victoria Theatrical Company of Spain will appear, offering contemporary Spanish and French works. Directed and headed by Fernando Granada and Pastora Peña the group will initiate its tour through the Americas at the Teatro Fabregas (Dioncelos 24, tel. 21-96-14). Nightly 7:15 & 9:45; Sundays 5:00 & 8:00.

**El Viaje** — Herbert Cobey's comedy presented in-the-round. This modern version of the Greek tragedy of Clytemnestra is directed by Xavier Rojas and features María Teresa Rivas and Eduardo Fajardo. Teatro El Grano (behind the National Auditorium, tel. 20-43-31). Nightly 8:30; Saturdays 7:15 & 9:45; Sundays 5:00 & 8:00.

**El Pato Salvaje** — Ibsen drama, presented by



the advanced students of the Theatrical Art School. Directed by Dagoberto Guillaumin. Sala Villafrutia (beside the Teatro del Bosque, tel. 20-90-10). Nightly 8:00. Closed Mondays.

**Los Millones de Marco Polo** — O'Neill's comedy presented by Mexico's Instituto del Seguro Social directed by Ignacio Retes. The cast includes José Gálvez, Ana Bertha Lepe and José Elías Moreno. Teatro Xola (Xola, tel. pending). Nightly 8:30; Saturdays 7:15 & 9:45; Sundays 5:00 & 8:00.

**NOTE:** Show business is the same in Mexico as anywhere else. Dates can change, performances may be held over or fold from one day to the next, which makes music and theater information subject to last minute changes.

## SPORTS

**Horse Racing:** Every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday at 2 p.m. Hipódromo de las Américas, Lomas de Sotelo, Mexico City. Eight races "1-2" selections second and last races. Quinielas on fourth and sixth races. Pari-mutuel betting. Over 170 racing dates during the 1959-60 season. Classics for May: May 8, for a 125,000 pesos added purse for three year olds at 1 1/8 miles distance. May 22, Handicap de las Américas, for a 200,000 pesos added purse, for three year olds and upward at 1 1/4 miles distance. May 29, Clásico Debutantes for a 40,000 pesos added purse for two year olds at four furlongs distance. Puet Gate. Automatic Photo Chart and Automatic Photo Camera at the finish line. Track length: 6 1/2 furlongs.

**Bullfights:** Sunday 4:30 p.m. Formal Corrida. The season started Sunday April 3, in El Toreo on Cuatro Caminos, State of Mexico, just outside the city limits. Making up for lost time the "Corridas de Toros" should be in full swing in Plaza Mexico. But with the off-again-on-again rumors its wise to check the papers in Mexico City on the Friday, Saturday, and even on the Sunday of the particular fight you plan to see.

**Auto Racing:** The following races are set for May by the Federación Deportiva Automovilística: May 8, "Sexto Premio Zaragoza" for Clase Nacional cars — promoted by Club Deportivo Automovilístico de Puebla. May 22, Sixth Rally of the Mountains is for Clase Nacional cars; promoted by Radio Volante auto club. May 29, "Hill Climb del Popo", open; promoted by Roda Automobile Club.

**Boxing** — Arena Coliseo, Peru 77. Fights are on Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 9 pm. Saturdays a card is scheduled at the larger Arena Mexico on Doctor Rio de la Loza 94, at which time the Arena Coliseo closes.

**Fronton Mexico** — Ramos Arispe and Plaza de la Republica. Matches daily except Mondays. Tuesdays and Wednesdays the card starts at 7:30 pm. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays match time is 6 pm.

**Cock fights** — Daily, starting at 6:30 pm. El Palenque Areña, opposite the El Toreo bullring on Cuatro Caminos, Estado de México. Betting allowed here.

## OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN COMING MONTHS

**Corpus Christi Day, June 16** — Children dressed in native costume bring symbolic first fruits to be blessed in the church and there are special celebrations throughout the Republic. In Papantla, Veracruz, Totonac Indians perform their spectacular dance of the Voladores (Players).

**St. John the Baptist Day, June 25** — Because of the many Juans and Juanitas, this day is an occasion for many parties and fairs throughout the Republic.

**Taxco Silver Fair** — Usually held in mid-June, featuring fiestas, contests, and silver sales.

**Opera** — The International Opera season will get underway at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in June and continue throughout the summer.

**Ballet** — The popularity of ballet in Mexico is attracting more and more first-rate companies to visit the capital. In August the Yugoslavian Ballet "Mosayev" and Baydén and Renault, stars of the Grand Opera Ballet of Paris, are scheduled; in September the Hindu Ballet Group. Amalia Hernandez's Ballet Folklorico, at present in its third month, will continue on into June. (See Music).

**National Symphony Orchestra** — A special series of Mexican music during June and a Pan-American Festival of Music in July are scheduled by the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional as part of its current season.

**Music** — In June Andrés Segovia will present a series of guitar recitals, and the Bellos Aries Quartet will offer its season. In July the Santiago Quartet and the Madrigalistas Chorus are set for concerts at the Palacio de Bellas Artes.

# this month IN ACAPULCO

by Carol Miller

**M**ay means the openair ballet, concerts; TV and cinema companies are filming madly to get in plenty of tropical footage before the rainy season cuts loose in all its daily downpour of glory; and yachtsmen both amateur and professional are gliding over the bay having themselves a high good time. The federal government has stepped in, with regard to this latter item, to fix the rental prices of boats and thus spare the tourist an agonizing, not to mention bewildering, interlude in two languages (and all the bilingual frills) often accompanying such a simple act as renting a

waterworthy craft. It's all part of the game, folks. But now the new rates will be enforced, and are scaled in accordance with the size of the boat, number of motors operated, the distance and duration of the cruise, and other variable factors. Thus rides can range from as little as \$ 0.12 U.S. per hour to as high as \$ .80. A separate schedule is provided for craft pulling water skis (with or without skiers, we would imagine).

**T**he jet age is moving into Acapulco. A jet powered fiberglass boat had all the notables at the Facht Club in a dither and it won't be long before other sorts of jet—and atomic-powered vehicles are winding through the highways and airlanes leading into the Mexican Riviera. The world is changing and Acapulco with it. Even the fashions reflect this surge of other-worldliness. It might be classed as scientific advancement, or sophistication, or just progress—a thing which used to creep but which now steals hurriedly across the bays and beaches on little ionized feet. Clothes are styled with Outer Space in mind. Scientific expeditions explore the depths if the coastal waters with radiation packed equipment. One leading company specializing in aerial surveys and studies even reports on atmospheric radiation. Indeed! We used to concern ourselves with rays in the line of infra-red or ultra-violet (the kind that afford those splendid golden tan tourists love to go home with). We were saying, though, that the world is changing.

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# From our readers

## INFORMATION PLEASE

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John S. Shanly  
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Editor.

### iOLE!

"...I want you to know how much my family and my Spanish classes enjoy your magazine. Many of my students resist reading, but will pounce upon copies of your magazine which I often have on my desk. They vie to get hold of the magazine to provide them with material. I am chairman of the New Mexico State Dept. of Education, Spanish Curriculum Committee and take every opportunity to tell other Spanish teachers about your magazine. I have sent a note to the Director of Foreign Languages of the state to put in a plug for it in his next Bulletin which goes to all the Spanish teachers of the state.

My students loved the article on Humbolt and la Guera Rodriguez. This is the sort of material which we welcome. Most of our students think

of Mexico in terms of cactus, heat, and Juarez' brassy nightclubs. We are tired of the ugly and the seamy side which is what many American writers look for. Thank you for giving us something about the charm and culture rather than the "burro"-type of picturesqueness.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. L. Speneer  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

*We strive to give a comprehensive and definitive coverage of Mexico, what it really is, and what makes it tick. Letters like yours make us feel that we may be succeeding, at least so far as the limitations of a magazine permit. Anyway you make us feel that it is all worth while. Thanks!*

Editor.

*Re: Search for Eden — the following is from the Connecticut Blue Cross:*

"It is our policy to extend benefits to our members for general hospital care, or its equivalent, furnished anywhere in the world, and we so state in our literature. Should hospital care be needed in Mexico or in any other foreign country, it might be necessary for the member to pay the hospital bill and forward same to us for reimbursement within the terms of the membership contract. We have no arrangements for the extension of authorized credits in foreign hospitals. However, the reimbursement would represent the full benefits available, computed at the current rate of exchange, and payment would be made in United States funds".

**Our Cover:** Mama and her exploding robots reflect the exploding population of Mexico and the world, now being tooted up by census takers here and elsewhere.

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**MEXICO/this month**

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This little hook (MTM's sign), swiped from the Aztec codices, means words, music, wind and waves.

# person to person

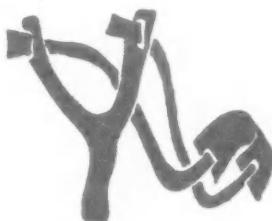
This year of the fiftieth birthday of the Mexican Revolution has been marked, as is the universal impulse on so solemn a date, by much stock-taking, backward-looking, conscience-searching, and whither-from-here writing and talk, both learned and lay. In November, when the actual birthday date is due, there will, of course, be many tomes and speeches, adding things up.

There is a lot to look at, in the way of extraordinary achievement, and remarkable discoveries too, in how to get things done that need doing, without the money to do them with. And —basic in Mexican thinking— without resorting to force of any kind, not even penalized pressures. The net gains carry, in many fascinating ways, reasons for self-congratulation, but to us the most interesting aspect so far, of the stock-taking, is the mood of it, which is anything but boastful.

Most of the public leaders and key intellectuals — who here play an important role in matters governmental — have been talking along the lines of mistakes made and large tasks still to be carried out, which outlook took on emphasis after the recent visit of Russian bigwigs and their hugely drummed-up Fair. It was intended to knock the eyes out of these backward hinterlands; and public opinion, duly prepared to be impressed and humble, backfired. There was too much in the show that was too obviously, transparently, propaganda and not real. And, since the Mexicans are a highly intelligent people they know one from the other, as a rule pretty fast, and resent being P. R'd on the level of peasantry supposed to be bewitched by the drums and magic of a travelling medicine-show.

I got to be a popular sport to kid the Russians — who for quite a while didn't realize what was happening. In the upper echelons there set in an undercurrent of distaste, the same sort of thing that happens privately when anyone has the obvious vulgarity to

hand himself orchids and applause. So the Mexicans, resenting also Mikoyan's patronizing speeches about their achievements, crystallized their self-appraisals into unassuming arithmetics of whatever kind — economic, social, political. And, since it is a national habit also always to kid the government, anyone who looks at this Year of the Revolution right now, to measure history by what vox populi says, is likely to get very far indeed from both the facts and the real feelings.



Praise and propaganda along hooray-for-us lines just doesn't exist. It can't. There are too many problems still to be met, working against its acceptance, and too ingrained a habit of satirical skepticism of anything coming from public spokesmen. The gains, therefore, are so much taken for granted that nobody mentions them, and many of them aren't even generally known. The dams and highways, schools and sanitation, that could provide reels and reels of dramatic documentaries, are just there; they exist, continue being done, and that's it.

They are dramatic accomplishments, sometimes even truly astounding. But the most dramatic are, probably, the least corporeal and concrete. Form a picture of total confusion, with prac-



tically everybody armed and fighting, split in dozens and hundreds of bands, and a complete breakdown of such communications and services as then existed, to now, fifty years after, is indeed a large change. Within which, the most significant shift is the repudiation, by reflex almost, of all methods of change based on violence or force.

Local leaders who still pack a gun are looked upon with distaste and much criticized for it, and people who deliberately perturb civic order are labelled and dismissed as just plain hoodlums — exotic products, imitating, so people say, those beatniks and juvenile delinquents and things that infest the peace and quiet of the U. S. scene. And so, although the present directives of undercover agitators are, to agitate all-out, via student demonstrations, peasant unrest, strikes, etc., the popular sympathy that's aimed at doesn't jell. On the contrary, even just causes lose face and ground when the struggle to right real wrongs is scripted in a violent way.

The vaccine from ten years of civil war and another ten of instability, has left a real immunity, so most Mexicans will tell you, against bloodshed, rioting, or even rowdiness. So much has the pendulum swung, that a recent cleanup of dives in Mexico City, ordered by the now almost legendary Mayor Uruchurtu as a "depistolization", produced citywide in a capital of nearly five million, a total of three guns, three old fashioned razors, two filed-down butcher-knives, three icepicks, and a handful of oversized jack-knives.

Of course, there are still fiesta firecrackers, all sizes. The story goes that ex-Emperor Maximilian, reminiscing somewhere in a Mediterranean resort with a Councillor of his former Court, mused: "I wonder what the Mexicans are up to now? This very moment..."

"Ah, Your Excellency," answered the Councillor, "Shooting fireworks, of course".

Uruchurtu, whose favorite role is obviously Jack the Giant Killer, has tried very emphatically indeed to uproot this sport, which the Mexicans make an art of, very much like the Chinese. But it keeps coming back like grass between old pavements.

## NATIONAL PANORAMA

### NEW FIRMS IN MEXICO IN 1959

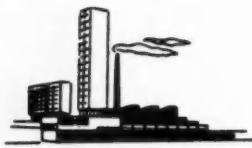
As released to MEXICO this month  
by the Research Division of the  
Nacional Financiera

Last year 2,400 new industrial enterprises were established in Mexico, registering authorized capital totaling 1,787 million pesos.

Heavy investments were made in a wide range of manufacturing industries, in which 877 firms were created with capital summing 691 million pesos. Average investments of less than a million pesos were registered in food and beverage, textiles, wood and furniture, chemical and pharmaceuticals, machine parts and other fields. Capital put up in the paper, non-metal mineral products (construction materials) and electric apparatus industries was considerably larger. In these three fields 109 firms were established with authorized capital totaling 196 million.

Almost 40% of the new firms, in terms of capital authorized, went into manufacturing. Thirty percent was registered in banking, trade and real estate —908 companies with total capital of 550 million pesos.

Construction activities were expanded with 275 new firms and 339 million pesos of capital, and 219 businesses with capital totaling 138 million pesos were opened in service branches.



While the majority of new firms (1,678) went to the Federal District, other growing industrial centers attracted important investments. In Monterrey 205 firms were established, with capital totaling 156 million pesos, chiefly in building, food and beverages, chemicals, metal products, and trade and banking.

The City of Puebla attracted 311 new companies, with capital totaling 100 million pesos, in textiles, food and beverages and trade, among others. Guadalajara registered 120 new businesses, with capital totaling 60 million, mainly in construction, trade and banking and various manufacturing industries.

The Mexican Government hopes that new public works in less developed regions of the country will produce opportunities for private investment in many new markets.

## News and Comment

The Inter-American Defense Army proposed to the Latin American nations by the U. S. State Department received an unmistakably negative response in Mexico.

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs for Mexico has spelled out the reasons clearly. However, well intentioned the proposal it is not consistent with the economic realities of Mexico. Rather than put forth such an expenditure to increase the Armaments budget, Mexico will continue to build its internal strength by constructing schools, hospitals, roads, and housing.

All of this merely restates Mexico's basic foreign and domestic policies. For it has the smallest per capita arms budget of any country in the world.

Because Mexico has one of the most stable governments it has developed a real leadership in Latin American affairs. Disarmament throughout Central and South America is one of the basic aims of Mexican diplomacy.

The recent trip by President Lopez Mateos to several South American republics spelled out these policies. This active demonstration of leadership has prompted European and Asian countries, to try Mexico first as a means of swinging the rest of the Spanish speaking peoples.

Mexicans regard with amusement and traditional courtesy the fine speeches and platitudes of U. S. politicians who make a habit of kicking off a Latin American tour here. Such lofty personages as presidential aspirants and former candidates urge us to disarm and be good neighbors, and to get along with everyone.

Aside from an occasional insurrec-

tion of the internal variety, Latin American nations have been properly behaved.

In rejecting the U. S. proposal, the Secretary for Mexico's foreign affairs urges other Latin American nations to pursue a policy of disarmament and of expending the funds thus saved on such worthy projects as schools, hospitals, roads, etc.



To further complicate the fuss about exploding populations, and whether birth control information should or should not be made available, Mexico has come a cropper with newsworthy multiple births. Within the last two months, one set of quintuplets, two sets of quadruplets, an undisclosed number of triplets, twins, and single births have been recorded. We assume that no one has urged such multiple births as a goal to be sought. And we are somewhat sympathetic to what such an experience produces in the home. For of course, these startled parents had four and five older children all robustly making homelife a scene of continuous action. Our congratulations to all concerned —may they all grow up to be useful citizens.



April issue readers recall the storm that broke over the proposed widening of Tacuba Street. More comprehensive planning and zoning work will be done before an east-west route through the heart of the city is decided upon. Meanwhile, the proposal for widening this historic old street has been postponed (shelved) indefinitely.

# *in May*

## CERVANTES IN GUANAJUATO

Again this year, Cervantes returns to Guanajuato in an annual festival, now eight years old and so famous that it draws special excursion trains.

Action takes place in the town square—the Plaza de San Roque—but villagers and actors and the city itself, so unchanged in Colonial buildings and cobblestoned streets that it looks like 16th-century Spain, conspire so that everyday life is hard to separate from the nightly theater. Presentations are open air—and so horses and breezes and night sounds, the watchman's rounds and women's trips to the fountain are real, and gently blended with Cervantes' masterful prose.

The festival began this year in March, continued in April, and will keep going in May, on the 6th and 7th of the month, and from May 20 to 28 inclusive, with nightly presentations beginning at 8.



## CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo is a big day throughout the Republic, has been since the historic battle in 1862. Parades, speeches, hoopla, and fireworks prevail. The mood of such traditional fiestas doesn't obscure the fact that it is a significant date for the entire Western Hemisphere. Victory for the French would have meant the establishment, by Napoleon III, of an Empire here.

Mexico's victory enunciated the Monroe Doctrine more clearly than any similar act in recent history.



Poster from a census urges citizens to cooperate with census-taker.

## CENSUS:

Accelerated training courses and final preparations will make May a busy month for prospective takers of the 1960 Census. The counting itself is scheduled to be done in one day of intense and far-flung activity on June 8, when not only population, but also cattle and land under cultivation will be registered.

The tremendous job will be done by 700,000 citizens working not for pay, but in civic cooperation and to fulfill an obligation imposed by the Mexican Constitution. These census takers will set out to gather information from every inhabitant of the Republic: house by house, building by building, hut by hut, in deserts and on mountain slopes, in tropical jungles and along the river banks, on the beaches of both seas, in huge modern cities, in small towns that preserve, unaltered, their Colonial origins, in tiny Indian villages,

(See page 17)



PONY LEAGUE: *in the air* ...  
A

## At the French Club, Youngsters Ride High



The Club Hipico Frances is confusingly known as the French Club to those of us who don't get confused, but it is a bit confusing to the stranger, as there is another big French Club on the other side of town.

The horse French Club is out by Cuatro Caminos, a mile or so beyond the much more impressive Asociación Equestre. It was started, as its name suggests, some years ago by the French residents of Mexico but with time has become increasingly international in character.

Nevertheless, a jumping competition at the French Club is a thing worth seeing, for on these days the young and active suddenly distinguish themselves from the philosophical and fashionable. And, some of the oldsters come out to prove to the youngsters that as yet they don't know everything. And, frequently, they do just that. Others go down gallantly trying. The unexpectedness of the contrasts is probably the most exciting thing of it.

The result, too, is rather surprising. For, every year, a larger number than you would expect of the French Club members show up abroad as members of Mexico's international or Olympic equestrian teams.

Pint-sized equestrians head for the top bar in competition for awards and mastery of one of man's most exacting sports.

*...and on the ground*

## "Beisbol" Babies Hit a Record As World Champs

Jeanne J. Larson

Only a few years ago, boys' sand lot activities in Mexico were dominated by soccer. Many an unsuspecting motorist has run his car up on a rock goal or two left in the middle of the street after a pick-up soccer game. Baseball? It was something played by the professionals in the Seguro Social ball park. As far as children participating in baseball games, they didn't.

Then in November 1954 a group of men with vision and enthusiasm formed the first Little League in Mexico, patterning it after similar organizations in the United States. Under the able leadership of Dr. John S. Niederhauser, Aztec Little League had a successful season. The following year, overwhelmed by the response which they received in the initial tryouts for vacancies in the four-team league, Aztec officials found it necessary to form an additional four-team division, thus affording playing opportunity to sixty more boys between the ages of 8 and 12. Still, such a large number of aspirants remained that a new league, Metropolitan, came into being.

In 1957 Toltec Little League received its charter from the Little League organization in Williamsport,

(See page 27)



Little leaguers From Mexico City give the local sports page a quick scanning during a between-innings break in their game with a Monterrey team, played in Monterrey.



Above: The Golden Aztecs line up in front of the CMA plane that flew them from Mexico City to Monterrey. Below: A runner reaches home plate while the opposing catcher watches in classic resignation.



**T**he agave or maguey of Mexico! The fantastic plant that since precolumbian times has given the Indians fiber for clothing and shoes, beans and roof tiles for their houses, fodder for their animals, paper to write on, soap, needle and thread (the torn and the fiber that can be pulled off with it), not to mention the maguey's many uses in cooking, and above all the intoxicating beverage pulque, once the national drink of Mexico, which is made from the sap.

Though with no previous knowledge of the myriad uses of the maguey, the tourist who travels though north and middle Mexico will marvel over the great numbers and varieties of these fleshy spiny plants, superficially so like cacti, but a distinct genus, the Amaryllidaceae, which seem to be there just to give Mexico its Mexican look. He will begin to realize the importance of the maguey with his first startled sight of cultiva-

much as 10% sugar and so ferments after a few hours even in the wound of the plant itself. It is thus probable that from the very first the sap served as an intoxicant as well as the only drinkable beverage in the desert areas.

The Nahuas or Aztecs also significantly recorded the discovery of pulque, which occurred many years after the beginning of their migrations from the north. One can well imagine the extreme hardships suffered before they too discovered how to make fountains in the desert by cutting out the hearts of magueys. It is easy to speculate that a symbolic connection existed between the operation performed on the maguey to obtain the life-giving, and in its intoxicant form ritual, fluid-an operation, incidentally, that in six months kills the maguey, and the practice of human sacrifice by extracting the living heart. Certain it is that round the maguey and its various

zed by the goddess Mayáhuatl; her four hundred rabbit children (which in the Aztec numbering system meant "innumerable") were pulque gods. Their names were One-Rabbit, and so on to Four-Hundred, but the most important and powerful was Two-Rabbit, or Ometochli, who not only symbolized pulque but was also god of the effect it has on people. A pyramid to Two-Rabbit was erected high in the mountains surrounding Tepozotlán, a village near Cuernavaca, and from all over Mexico pilgrims used to come to honor this god. The ceremonies conducted in his name had the character of ritual mass orgies. On feast days the whole population including the children were required to get drunk on pulque; those who know the high cliffs that had to be climbed to the pyramid can just about imagine the casualties.

But drunkenness on any other day was punished by death. Not even

# PULQUE:

the nectar of the  
400 rabbit gods

ted maguey fields in the most waterless zones, especially the regions closer to Mexico City. There at altitudes between 7000 and 8500 feet, grows one of largest agaves, the maguey manso, from which most of pulque is made. In endless precise hillsides he sees thick spiked arms heaved up to heaven as if at the same time imploring and threatening. Not only has the agave played a most dramatic role in the development of the Indian civilizations of central Mexico, but it is also, in its physical appearance, a fitting symbol for the Indian races.

**T**he enormous importance of the discovery of the uses of the maguey sap, especially in its fermented state, is immortalized in many Indian legends. Probably the oldest is from the Otomies who tell of a small rat-like animal that had the habit of scraping the maguey stem with its teeth, then returning after a while to drink the juice that had gathered. The Otomies observed this and thus learned to extract the sweet sap. But maguey juice, which is called agua miel or honey water, may contain as

properties the central Mexican tribes created a complicated pantheon of deities, and pulque itself, which they called Iztacacatlí, might not be drunk by the common people except on certain religious holidays. It was a drink reserved for gods, kings, noble warriors and sacrificial victims.

Pulque is not the result of simple fermentation. At some time in antiquity, it was found that the addition of a certain herb, *orpatlí*, increased fermentation, producing a more potent brew. As the story goes, it was the Toltec Prince Papantzin who some 1000 years ago, discovered this marvellous property of *orpatlí*. He presented the first brew together with his daughter, the Princess Xochitl, to the king, Tecpanzalitzin, at Tula. Perhaps due to the pulque, the king fell madly in love with the princess and made her his own. To this day the Mexican Indians are careful to toast Princess Xochitl by emptying the last swallow of each drink on the floor—which leaves the imbibers somewhat swimming after a while.

**T**he maguey itself was symboli-

kings or priests might overindulge; only old men who had already lived out useful lives. The Aztecs measured degrees of drunkenness on the scale of 400 rabbits. Ten rabbits was perhaps only gay, but for forty rabbits one could be stoned to death. At 400 rabbits, however, one became holy by having drunk oneself to death. In such case a traditional dance by warriors brandishing copper axes was then performed around the holy dead one.

**I**he fall of the Toltec kingdom was, as a matter of fact, attributed to pulque. It was said that Quetzalcóatl, the Plumed Serpent or the Precious Twin, a very wise man but so ugly that he hid his face behind a jade mask, was king in that time. By refusing to sacrifice humans, he made some very powerful enemies, including the demon Tezcatlipoca, Smoking Mirror. On a certain day, Smoking Mirror with some companion demons brought a pot of pulque to Plumed Serpent. Plumed Serpent did not want to try the pulque fearing it might kill him, but Tezcatlipoca said, "It is very tasty and will help

(See page 24)

Worker in a pulque factory empties "honey water" from a pigskin in this Vermeer-like, prize-winning photograph by Mike Kosinski

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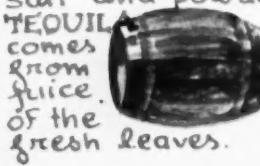
# PRACTIL and SUCCUL



← maguey - a species agave, as are the ones from which mezcal and henequen are made. This one provides "aguamiel" - honey-water which ferments into pulque. The honey - water (he uses a long hollow gourd)



**MEZCAL** - leaves of this agave species are roasted; the juice is fermented to make mezcal, which is properly consumed with a mixture of salt and powdered maguey worms.

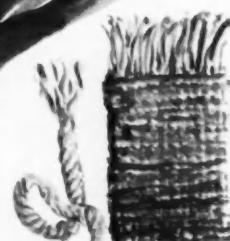


**TEQUILA** comes from juice of the fresh leaves.



OAXACA.

**HENEQUEN** - leaves are crushed to remove pulp and juice, fiber is dried, made into rope, bags, hammocks, shoes, etc.



**PITAHAYO** - grows produces yellowish green fruit which climbs

# CIL CACTI Aztec succulents

species  
thents  
nezzend  
e n.  
vid  
never-  
ted  
  
terector  
ngallow

NOCHEZTLAN  
aztec word  
means "place  
where the cochineal insects abound"  
(drawing from codex)



OPUNTIA  
MEGANTHA.  
nopal de castilla

NOPAL. used as  
perch by eagle to  
tell wandering  
aztecs where to  
build city.



COCHINEAL BUGS - they were  
grown on a variety of  
nopal.



CACTUS FRUIT: red, green, yellow

Tender young  
leaves of  
the NOPAL are eaten  
cooked, hot or cold.



pueretaro,  
wh red, or  
which some  
to pick. the fruit: pitahaya.

ECHINOCACTUS  
INGENS.

BIZNAGA -  
barrel cactus is candied  
eaten as a sweet and  
used in cakes. Barrel cactus  
was also used as

first  
sacrificial  
altar by  
wanderin  
aztecs befor  
they built Tenochtitl



↑  
the fruit: pitahaya.



MCV

# CACTI: these Mexican natives have inspired thorny practices

Cacti and succulents, in such a vast number of varieties that by no means of all them have been identified or named, march up and down the mountains of Mexico, and spread across the arid hot lands in an abundance that gives the country much—in some regions, all—of its character and definition.

Because of the immense number of cacti in Mexico, many botanists believe that the family *cactaceae* originated here, and then spread across the American continent. Certainly in no other country are cacti and succulents put to such thorough and varied uses as in Mexico.

Just how long this has been going on, no one knows. When the Spaniards arrived, they found cactus species named, cultivated and used almost exactly as they are today. It appears that there may have been no generic name for the family of cactus, but individual varieties were classified in groups according to botanical characteristics. Knowledge of uses survives in the few precious codices that were not destroyed by the invading Spaniards, in the writings of some of these latter, and perhaps most of all in the continuity of tradition.

Certain cacti were cultivated, as they are today, as ornamental plants, and particularly for the beauty of their flowers. These were among the many plants gathered and placed in botanical gardens near Tenochtitlán to acclimate hot country flora to Mexico's high central plateau conditions. At that time, no other country in the world except China had reached so advanced a level in agricultural study.

Cactus were, and are, cultivated as food. The tender young leaves of the nopal were shaved of spines and cooked as a green vegetable.

All sorts of cactus fruit were eaten: the red, green and yellow fruit of the various nopalos, the "chilitos" of the barrel cactus, the "figs" of the organ cactus, the pitahayas of the great candelabra cactus, and many others.

These sweet and juicy fruit were eaten fresh, were crushed for their juice, made into syrup, and also fermented to make a slightly alcoholic drink. One sour variety, the *conochitli*, was used to add flavor to soups and sauces; it is still an important ingredient of several regional dishes.

These fruits, called *nochtli* by the Aztecs, were immediately adopted, and also adapted, by the Spaniards,

the fruit of the nopal." The insects were raised on selected nopalos; the plants themselves were carefully cultivated, budded to remove their fruit, discarded if they became weak or diseased. The cochineal bugs, which were killed, sun dried, and ground to make the brilliant scarlet cochineal dye, were one of very few native Mexican animals which could be domesticated—at least to the extent that honey bees or silkworms are domesticated. As an industry, the production of cochineal dye was of top importance in prehispanic times, and continued to be so throughout colonial times and up to the introduction of aniline dyes.

Cactus played an important role in ancient religion and legend. Not only was the wandering *Mexica* tribe told, in the prophetic dream of a high priest, to look for an eagle perched



who set about to rename them in more easily pronounced fashion. Today, many and perhaps most are known by their Spanish names. The fruit has become *tuna*; so, too, such preparations as *queso de tuna* ("cheeses" made from the cooked, evaporated juice of nopal fruits) and *biznaga* (candied barrel cactus).

Today, as for centuries, rural property lines are often marked by living fences of cactus, green and hardy, resistant to drought, armed with spines or needles. A favorite for this purpose is the organ cactus, planted in a continuous single file, tough, impassable, armed with menacing needles, but also frequently covered with a brilliant mantle of climbing flowers—often morning glories.

Of ancient uses, the most, important, economically, was the cultivation of nopalos for breeding cochineal insects. The Aztec name for these insects was *nopalnocheztlí* "blood of

on a nopal, with a serpent in its beak, as the sign of the place where they should build their city, but also human sacrifice, which apparently began among the Aztecs during their pilgrimage to find the eagle on the cactus, first took place on a cactus: the giant barrel cactus was used as a sacrificial altar.

Cactus figures in lesser sacrifices, as well: one of the common ritual customs of the Aztecs was to make self-sacrifices by driving cactus spines through their ears, tongue, arms or other parts of the body, and to make an offering of both the spines and the blood they lost.

Peyote cactus buds were used, and still are, as hallucinatory drugs in certain religious-magic rites, particularly in the Northeast regions of Mexico, on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Madre range.

M. M.

# CENSUS:

(From page 9)

and in the immense agglomeration of all of these that is the Capital of the Republic.

Preparations for the 1960 —the first for a decade— have been long and careful. For comparison purposes, most questions follow the Mexican census "tradition" —at least that part of the tradition that dates back to 1895, when the first formally organized attempt was made to take a total count of population. Partial counts were made earlier, during the Colonial period. And in prehispanic Mexico, the Aztecs took a yearly total by ordering everyone to bring a rock and make a pile of these on a specified day. Aside from age, nationality, birthplace and present residence, the counted are also asked if they speak Spanish, and what their native tongue is —it may well be Otomi or Zapoteco. They are asked if they know how to read and write, and how much schooling they have had; their work, their pay, and characteristics of their dwelling: for example, do they have running water? What sort of fuel is used for cooking? For purposes of immediate classification, they are asked questions that few other countries might include in a census: Do they eat wheat bread? Do they ever eat meat, eggs, milk or fish? Do they go barefoot, use huaraches, or do they use shoes?

The 1960 Census, which covers population, agriculture and cattle, will be followed in 1961 by a census of industry, commerce, communication, transportation and other public services. Electronic machines will help in the totalling, but to make sure that all individuals are included, leaders in all areas of life will join a campaign to urge citizens to cooperate.



The appearance of the census taker means opened doors and lengthy chats while the voluminous questionnaire is answered. A major campaign is planned this month to urge citizens to be at home, and eager to cooperate, on June 8, scheduled date for the huge project of counting not only all persons living in Mexico, but also cattle and farmlands.





Photo Héctor García

National Cardiology Institute, Mexico.

The casual traveler, the student, the scientist tramping through Mexico's archeological treasures, the business people, and those searching for Eden in Mexico's high plateaus are often warned to, "be careful of the altitude," "be sure to take it easy," "watch your heart," and "take a good deep breath every few minutes just to be on the safe side".

Such well meant precautions are likely to bestir a sense of uneasiness in the otherwise happy tourist—or make the person who plans to live here for any length of time downright apprehensive.

Imagine the surprise to step off a plane at this altitude (7,500' above sea level) and see a thriving metropolis with millions of people bustling about—not apparently taking it easy.

Because the idea of adjusting with difficulty has been firmly planted some people do suggest to themselves that they are out of breath, have symptoms of heart disorders, and difficulties have been described to them by the well-meaning folks back home.

Such fears, and symptoms begin to disappear when the newcomer learns that here there is one of the most famous centers of study and treatment of heart disorders in the world.

It is the Instituto Nacional de Cardiología, which has been going strong since 1944. Its research program has been one of the most intensive. And many facts born out

# Your heart in the Highland

A cardiologist reveals findings of Mexico's world famous, more-than-a-mile-high research institute.

by this research are beginning to lay some of the old bugaboos to rest.

Briefly the gentlemen under the leadership of Dr. Ignacio Chavez have concluded: Altitude alone is not a factor in health unless you live above 10,000 feet. Even there it is possible to adapt and to flourish. This adaptation is a point to bear in mind. The eskimo, and the natives of Quito, Ecuador or La Paz, Bolivia are good examples of this ability to adjust to varying climates and altitudes.

reflect in symptoms that have already been placed in his mind.

Free of the tensions of back home, he may have occasion to feel better. Or he may even go out on the town. If he drinks too much, or if he tries some of the, for him, new and exotic beverages, he may well awaken with a hangover. It's more convenient to blame the altitude than anything else. He may feel that it is the letdown from the flight—if that's how he came. But pressurized planes preclude that lack of adaptability,

If the person arriving is in good physical condition, he will really have no difficulties at all. His respiration rate picks up. The hemoglobin content of the blood may change—for the better. And once one accepts the fact that all's well, one will probably enjoy better health.

But supposing one is ill, does have a heat disorder, or thinks one

Photo Héctor García



In the Experimental Medicine Laboratory, doctors perform an interauricular communication operation.



Photo Héctor García

Lab technicians examine tissue slices in the Hormone Laboratories of the Cardiology Institute.

has one. What then? There is the possibility that one could become genuinely ill. The Instituto Cardiología maintains a 182 bed hospital specifically for cardiac disorders. The only requirement for admission is that you are sick—or think you are. Being rich or poor, native or foreign, or the most casual tourist is immaterial.

A local specialist feels that there is no one single factor in heart disorders. Rather, there are almost as many variables as there are people with disorders. The tensions and pressures of everyday living are regarded as causative.

Degenerative diseases or impairments of bodily functions are also causative. The extremely nervous person, the worry-wart, and those who are easily upset emotionally may be more likely candidates for later heart disorders than the genuinely calm, cool, and collected.

Disfunctions of the lung can aggravate a heart condition or perhaps make a latent one active. Sclerosis of the lungs or any diseases which affect the lungs and impair their ability to absorb oxygen will have a debilitating effect on the entire system. This will eventually show up,

also, in the heart.

Should the patient, then, seek a lower altitude? The answer is no—not unless his ability to absorb oxygen has been impaired.

## M

exico's largest number of heart cases stem from rheumatic fever. The severity of this disease here has prompted the Institute to conduct an intensive campaign of diagnosis and immediate early treatment to diminish the disastrous effects of this disease. It is thought that it is produced by a special sensitivity to a streptococci infection.

Second of the degenerative disease affecting the heart is high blood pressure; with arterio-sclerosis a runner up.

Angina pectoris and the myriad coronary disorders should be included in heart disorders that are degenerative and conducive to more heart problems if not properly treated.

In Mexico there are probably less false cardiacs than elsewhere.

One of the most amusing reasons that the doctor pointed out is that many people in the rural or less sparsely populated areas do not

know the symptoms, and are thus unable to generate the disease. As popular magazines become more widely read here this health-giving factor is likely to disappear.

It reminded the doctor of an instance written of by the late Dr. Morton Thompson. In a country doctor's office, the young, recently graduated intern comments on the magnitude of the old doctor's medical library. The older general practitioner says, "People around here read the Reader's Digest, and are likely to come in with diseases you've never even heard of."

Increased knowledge is dispelling the old fears. Many former treatments are yielding to newer simpler medications. No longer is surgery employed to alleviate hypertension. Pills now do the job. Each year sees sensational discoveries in the entire field of heart medicine. But even so, recovery depends upon the practical application of that uncommon commodity called common sense. Best advise is to have checkups, keep physically fit, exercise judiciously. And if you have a disorder seek treatment fearlessly, follow the professional advice you've sought, and calm down—at least somewhat. C. L.

"Wait just a moment..."



"You'll see, you'll see..."



"You're pulling my leg..." (literally, taking my beard)



## SIGN LANGUAGE

IN MEXICO A GESTURE IS WORTH MANY WORDS



"You distract him...While I take his wallet" (thieves' signs)

"Cut it --stop what you're doing..."

"I swear by God that..." (thumb and forefinger crossed)

"Money... a wad this thick..."



"I want a drink..." (or "Let's have one")



"Stingy" (literally, "elbow"; also means "from Monterrey")



Tie a Mexican's hands, and he'd almost have to stop talking. His gestures are constant and meaningful: here are just a few of the hundreds he probably uses daily . . . . .



"I don't know anything about it..."

"Thank you..."

A family reference... but untranslatable in a family magazine.

as photographed for MTM by Hector García.

# How to Learn Spanish

## Tutors, Intensive Classes, Kitchen Talk Offer Three Ways to Speed the Process

There is a fairly wide choice of method in the study of Spanish and I would say that the most important thing is to decide beforehand how much you want to learn. That is because there are "easy methods" by which you can manage to make yourself understood in amazingly short time

fore.

The worst methods invariably are the easiest ones and this, unfortunately, is the case with too many Americans who come to reside in Mexico. It is so easy to learn Spanish from the servants or to "pick it up around the plant." So easy—but so fatal! It gets them by in the supermarket, they can tell a taxi where to go—but is that all they want?

When I first came to Mexico, speaking practically no Spanish, I was amazed first that many American residents spoke Spanish so well and secondly that many of them had so few Mexican friends. Because I was fortunate in very soon securing the services of an excellent Spanish teacher, I gradually began to find out the reason. These people that I had, in my ignorance, thought spoke Spanish so well, in reality spoke only the language of their uneducated servants and consequently, were incapable of even starting an ordinary conversation with a Mexican of their own class. True, they had their own close circle of American friends and occasionally played bridge or gave cocktail parties amongst themselves. But how can anybody in his right mind deliberately cut himself off from the social and cultural life of the people he is among!

The educated Mexican usually speaks fair to very good English and is naturally a sociable person. You do not have to speak flawless Spanish to him any more than he expects you to demand utterly perfect English of him. But he quite reasonably thinks you would be shocked should he address you in the unlettered English of a hillbilly and, by direct comparison, is shocked when you speak to him in the crude Spanish of your criada.

If these considerations weigh at all with you, it is then best that you study your

Spanish by one or more of the several approved methods. Some are harder and slower for your capabilities than others but, if they are basically correct, you can change them without losing too much ground.

Most of the modern or so called "Berlitz" methods are taught mainly by ear with a minimum study of the rules of grammar. The method is the memorizing by sounds: words, then phrases and, finally entire sentences. The actual Berlitz method is by the use of individual instructors for each pupil, supplemented by specifically designed textbooks and phonograph records. This individual instruction has the

### MANGLED MEXICAN

Anyone learning Spanish is struck by all the words that sound like altogether different words in English. Some students, in fact, are so struck that they never learn to speak anything but Mangled Mexican, which can be fun, but plays havoc with communication—as witness the following phrases, interpreted by Vlad:

¡Qué tall could be



How tall!

but by which, for anything which approaches a cultured conversation, you will probably find yourself worse off than be-

### MANGLED MEXICAN

Arroz con pollo could be



He got up with the chickens

advantage of allowing the student to progress as rapidly as his capabilities permit but is more costly, and actually some students do learn more rapidly in classes.

The Instituto Mexico Norteamericano de Relaciones Culturales, one of the best known language schools in Mexico City, teaches Spanish to Americans as well as English to Mexicans. It uses moderate sized classes graded up to the fifth year. Otherwise it is similar to the Berlitz method. With its ample facilities, including art galleries, cafeteria, etc., it is able to mix its students to their mutual benefit. Its pace is not hurried, but satisfactory progress in general is reported. However, students wishing to accelerate this instruction often take private lessons in addition. Many business firms find it to their advantage to pay the full or part tuition of employees attending this school. Many American residents are enrolled.

The Spanish taught at Mexico City College is a full time university course of the classical type. Post-graduate students and teachers from the States often come here to perfect themselves in the language. Grammar is accentuated, written examin-

#### MANGLED MEXICAN

Pantalones could be



Lend me your pants

#### MANGLED MEXICAN

China Poblana could be



Chinatown

#### MANGLED MEXICAN

Lecheria could be

LECHERIA



Lechery

ations are the rule, and the student is expected to maintain a high scholastic average. For this reason part time students, or people whose age makes new learning too difficult, do not generally attempt it.

I am told that the course at the National University is slightly more easy but, by and large, I should expect the same considerations to apply even if to a lesser degree.

Between these extremes there are many language schools in Mexico of varying size and quality. These are required to maintain government standards in their teaching. However, your personal inspection and appraisal will probably be your best guide.

Also, there are numerous accredited private teachers of high capability. Usually these are from schools and give lessons privately in the time that remains to them. Some of these give small private classes while others prefer to teach individually. Usually they advertise in the English sections of the daily papers, although many of the best of them have as many pupils

as they can handle and seldom avail themselves of this recourse.



The Spanish that you can learn from books is surprisingly large, particularly if you avail yourself of a good grammar. Practice speaking it, even with your criada, for with your book, you will quickly become aware of the ungainly colloquialisms she uses. But, in this respect, your best and most trusted advisor can and should become the Mexican theater. Almost immediately, in seeing the action suited to the word, you will begin to understand first words, then phrases, and eventually the whole thing. Many of the plays will be translations of things you have already seen in English. That will make it easier. But more important is the fact that actors have to speak more clearly than the ordinary run of people. Also, they have to say something interesting, and you will find yourself making an especially good effort to find out what it was.

E.G.

# PULQUE:

(From page 12)

you get rid of the sores on your face. Just dip in your little finger and lick it". This Plumed Serpent did. Several hours later, in the midst of the convivial drinking and singing, Plumed Serpent realized his shame and weeping sang:

Of green feathers is my house,  
My house of yellow feathers,  
My house of red shells,  
Now I must leave it...!

Thereupon Plumed Serpent went with his vassals on a journey towards the east coast, where according to some he burned himself, and according to others he took to the sea with the promise of returning some time in the future.

Pulque is loaded with vitamins and other nutritious elements, and therefore is an important food as well as drink for the rural Indians of the arid zones, who subsist otherwise almost entirely on tortillas and frijoles. It is a strange brew because fermentation never stops. Innocent foreigners who have unwittingly corked bottles of pulque are liable to think themselves shot when a few hours later the cork blows through the roof and pulque begins spewing like a volcano.

The use of pulque, despite its nutritive qualities, has decreased over the last years in face of the effective advertising and distribution, even in smaller villages, of beer and bottled soft drinks. Pulquerías, or pulque saloons, less than fifty years ago were still proud places with a clientele of intellectuals, artists and a better class of the general male public. They were typically elaborately ornamented inside and out, and many sported large mural's sometimes by well known painters. There were even enormous open 'drive-in' pulquerías where the charros could ride in on horseback.

The glory of the city pulqueria has completely disappeared. The saloons today without exception are dives of the worst sort, hangouts of the very poor and the roughest elements, moreover serving usually adulterated pulque, and about all that remains of an interesting tradition are the fantastic names which may be read

over the doors.

For the tourist who wishes to sample pulque — and it is only fair to warn that many foreigners are at first repulsed by the characteristic 'rotten apple' odor of pulque — there are better class restaurants which serve exclusively Mexican cuisine and which, keep fresh pulque on hand for their customers. There you may try with confidence plain pulque or pulque curado, which is pulque mixed or 'cured' with whatever flavor is chosen, pineapple juice, lemon, beer, celery, cereal, or some other.

But those who want to do some exploring of the process of pulque making and to taste the best and freshest pulque right where it is produced should visit the state of Hidalgo. In the dry territories of Hidalgo entire villages derive their only money income from the production of pulque. Under the ejido system in effect each family head owns his own maguey fields, but these will be very extensive for the maguey takes about seven years to mature and dies within a short six months after the sap is tapped.



Once the cavity has been cut and prepared, it is the duty of a man called the *tlachiquero* to scrape the hole twice a day and to collect the accumulated *agua miel*. The latter he does by sucking up the sap in a long thin gourd, the *acocote*, and depositing the juice in a pighide bag, which has the virtue of expandability. The wound in the maguey is always covered by a stone in order to protect the harvest from marauding animals. The *agua miel* also is delivered twice a day to the local brewing house, the *tinacal*. There the sap is dumped into cowhides slung in the hut like hammocks, forming individual vats

for each brew of pulque.

The *tinacal*, which will be lighted only by candles and perhaps a kerosene lamp, is a spooky place, and about the same ceremonies are observed in it as in a church, except that women may not enter at all. Every man must remove his hat; and little images of the particular *tinacal*'s patron saint, with candles burning before them, are hung above each cowhide vat. Needless to say, each *tinacal* owner prefers his own secret formula for the fermenting of pulque.



In village doings,

pulque is never far away, whether only a reunion of elders is celebrated or it is someone's saint's day. In the smaller places such things as cups and glasses are not used. Instead, a maguey leaf is cut by machete in the form of a parallelogram. The drinker forms a bowl by holding opposite corners and pushing inwards. A second man then is needed to fill the maguey bowl, while a third man with a twig is supposed to fish out the different insects that inevitably have been attracted to the liquid and drowned there.

According to one authority 170 different species of maguey exist in Mexico alone. Of these, thirty-eight are known *pulqueras*, or varieties from which *agua miel* is extracted to produce pulque. But the one most commonly cultivated for that purpose and of which the tourist will be most aware is the large *Agave Atrovierens*, or maguey manso. He may be interested to know, however, that the *Agave americana*, which is grown in the United States under the name of century plant, may also be used to produce the brew. But if the traveler has formed a liking for this unique beverage, he will have to return to Mexico, as pulque is produced nowhere else and is best only in the actual regions where the *agua miel* is gathered, for with true pulque the process of fermentation is never arrested.

Frederic Mulders

# Our own Directory

## STEPPING OUT

As Eliot Gibbons stated in Stepping Out in the March, 1960 of this magazine, opening a hotel in Mexico City is like nowhere else in the world. Keeping to this tradition the Suites Emperador opened officially on March 31. And in keeping with this same tradition it was a howling success. Wending their away among the crowds of guests, adroit waiters saw that everyone had his proper and desired amount of libations. Then with an infallible sense of timing (while everyone had his rosy glow) dinner was served. Traditional Mexican food, and served as sumptuously as I have ever seen, including the internationally famous cuisine at the Jockey Club. It was superb, tasty, and so inviting that I joined a small coterie of gluttons for seconds.

The hotel itself consists of seventy suites, and if you take advantage of a longer stay, than say two weeks, you get a rate that falls definitely into the amazingly inexpensive category —figured per person. All of

the hotel services are included. And several exclusive shops, restaurants, offices and services opened in April in the hotel.

In La Scala, an intimate restaurant with an air of elegance, a singer of Italian opera as well as other lighter ballads, serenades diners. Occasionally using an accordian background the lady sings informally (seated). It is a celebrity hangout; which does add glamour to the elegance. Homemade horseradish, freshly ground mustard, and imported Italian breads are among the specialities of the house.

For chowing down with large parties Señorial has facilities practically unlimited. In addition to steaks from Sonora beef, grain-fed especially for Señorial, there is a varied menu for the gourmet palate. Two hundred fifty can be served in the main dining room. The bar holds another 100, and 400 more can be accomodated in the upstairs banquet room.

Charles Lucas

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## the *Knife and Fork*

Nopalitos — the tender, new green paddles of the nopal cactus — rank among Mexico's most cherished and most traditional foods. They were eaten by the Aztecs, and by who-knows-how-many people before them; they are relished today, particularly just after the rains start, when the new leaves appear at their freshest and juiciest, somewhat the way a Frenchman relishes the first new asparagus of Spring.

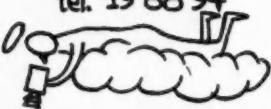
Nopalitos taste a little like okra, and have the same mucilaginous quality, except more so. Traditional Mexican cookery has several directives for keeping this quality under control. Residents of the Southwestern U.S. states should have no trouble finding fresh leaves to experiment with; those living further north may be able to find canned nopal leaves in specialty shops: these are exported in some quantity from Mexico.

But we'll start with the fresh: hunt for the new, bright green leaves, up to about 4 or 5 inches in length, and pick them with care. There is a spineless variety, much used for cattle feeding — if this sort grows near you, you can harvest without gloves. Trim off the spines with a sharp knife, but don't wash the leaves: this is one of the tricks to keep the sticky sap from accumulating in awesome quantity. You can cook the leaves whole, if you plan to serve them stuffed, or cut them in thin strips, about 1/4 inch wide, if you plan to serve them as a relish, the favorite way in Mexico. Cook them in salted water to cover, with a pinch of soda to keep them green, and a couple of scallions, long green leaves and all (this is another trick to, as Mexican cooks say, "cut the spit"). They should be tender in 15 to 20 minutes, and will look something like French-cut string beans. Drain them in a colander, covering them with a damp towel (this is the final trick).

and a dash of pepper. Dip the joined nopalitos in the egg mixture and fry them in hot fat (about 1/2 inch deep) until browned on both sides. Drain them on absorbent paper while you prepare a sauce: remove seeds stems and veins from 2 dried chiles anchos (you may substitute 1 to 2 tablespoons chile powder). Soak whole chiles until soft in boiling water to cover. Grind these with 1 onion, clove of garlic, and 1 peeled tomato — easiest, of course, is to buzz all this in a blender until smooth. If you use chile powder, grind the vegetables, add the powder, and mix until evenly distributed. Heat 1 tablespoon fat in a good-sized frying pan; add the vegetable mixture, and stir over high heat until it bubbles for 3 or 4 minutes; blend in 1 cup water or stock, and heat to boiling. Add the fried stuffed nopalitos, and simmer for several minutes, until thoroughly hot. Serve them right away.

M. M.

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To make the relish —or salad?— peel about half as many ripe tomatoes as you have nopalitos; press most of the seeds out of the tomatoes, dice the pulp, and mix this with the nopalitos. Add a small onion, finely chopped; season with oil, vinegar and salt, in french dressing proportions, and add a large pinch of dried oregano, powdering this between your hands. You may also add chopped fresh or canned green chiles; shower the top of the mixture with grated cheese.

For stuffed nopalitos, the leaves are cooked whole. Drain them well; flour them lightly, and press two leaves together with a slice of jack cheese between. For six of these "sandwiches", separate 2 eggs. Beat the whites until stiff; beat the yolks just enough to mix, and fold them into the whites, together with 1 tablespoon flour, 1/4 teaspoon salt,

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## PONY LEAGUE:

(From page 11)

Pennsylvania, and divided up the Lomas-Polanco area with Aztec. Maya Little league also received its charter for the southern area of the city and began its career on a new field adjacent to the Squibb Laboratories in San Angel, a field which was cleared from a rubble-filled vacant lot by the fathers of the boys eager to play.

In June 1957 the first Federal District championships were held at Maya Field. For more than five hundred boys and their fathers representing the four Little Leagues in the Federal District, it was the culmination of many desires and many hard hours of practice. Aztec Little League, the victor of the tournament, flew off to McAllen, Texas, to participate in the District play-offs.

Meanwhile, Little League had also taken hold in other cities in Mexico, principally in Monterrey, which turned out a fifteen-boy contingent to play in the District play-offs. The two Mexican teams faced each other in the first game of the series at McAllen. Aztec bowed to a powerful adversary.

The Cinderella team from Monterrey went on through District and Regional tournaments in the United States and finally the World Series in Williamsport, undefeated and wildly acclaimed—the first foreign team to take the World Series. The boys were feted by the major leagues in New York, were taken by vicepresident Nixon on a tour of Washington, D. C., and were presented by President Eisenhower with a cup which the ambidextrous pitcher Angel Macías carried in his arms as he stepped off the plane in Mexico City to a delirious welcoming crowd of more than 20,000.

Both Mexican District and Latin American Regional tournaments were

held in Mexico City in 1958 and again the Monterrey contingent walked off victorious to repeat successes in Williamsport,

In 1959 the Mexican championships were again held in Mexico City. Playing before a capacity crowd of 10,000 each of the three days, three all-star teams from Monterrey and three from Mexico City participated in the series which was won by a new team from Monterrey, Sierra Madre.

The 1960 season has seen a continued growth in the Little League movement, particularly in Mexico City, where each of the four franchised teams was forced, for lack of sufficient vacancies, to turn away boys after the try-outs. As a result, several baseball "schools" have been organized by interested fathers connected with the leagues with the idea of preparing aspirants for next season's try-outs. The enthusiasm for these schools is exemplified by one mother who, because of her older son's interest in his activities in the school, asked that her younger boy be allowed to join also. He was refused admittance on the grounds that he was a trifle too young. He is two and a half.

With the movement continuing to grow, the present Commissioner for Little League in southern Mexico, Mr. William B. Richardson, is working on the acquisition of permanent ball parks for the Little Leaguers. The ball parks will make it possible for many boys and fathers to participate in baseball on their own fields instead of borrowing the facilities of Deportiva Israelita, the American School Foundation, Loma Hermosa softball park, and others, but it will not change the complexion of the sand lots in Mexico. They will always be crowded, not so much these days with little ones kicking the ball and bouncing it off their heads, however, as with fellows with worn mitts and sticks for bats going after a tennis ball or even an old stuffed sock, all eager to be-mother come part of a "beisbol" team.

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## INVESTMENTS

People from abroad who come to Mexico for either a long or a short stay are invariably impressed with the high yields offered by Mexican investments. Not a few, their thinking long conditioned by the comparatively much lower yields available in the United States, are inclined to look upon them with a certain degree of distrust. Actually there is little foundation for it, Mexico enjoying one of the highest credit ratings in the world today, both for its government and its private industry. This is nowhere better proven than by the recent Eximbank loan, at 4½%, of forty million dollars to the privately owned Fundidora steel group.

The high yield of Mexican investments is the result of nothing other than the simple working of the law of supply and demand. Mexico has

many resources and much to do with them. For this it obviously needs money but, quite as obviously, it has proven its ability to pay — even highly — for the use of this money. A commonplace instance of this, taken from this morning's paper, is the report of the regular meeting of a mortgage bank. The eight percent interest charges of the mortgages, which it guarantees, are met as a matter of course. After this, also as a matter of course, the regular dividend of 20% is declared to its stockholders.

As an investor I find there is only one rule to follow when investing in Mexico. It is the same rule that I learnt many years ago, and at some cost, in the United States — one should weight the risk with the same care as the gain. In Mexico as in the United States there are large banks of thoroughly established reputation whose investment knowledge is indubitably sound and available to their clients. There are excellent brokerage houses. Furthermore the financial publications of Mexico, some of which are also published in English, are informative and reliable. As in the States they provide a ready check upon each other, as well as upon the opinions one may have received elsewhere.

A listing of current Mexican investment yields is appended. Saving bank accounts yield 4 ½%. Guaranteed 1st

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Eliot Gibbons

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Paseo de la Reforma No. 107 México, D. F.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEXICAN RESIDENT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY HERE. WE WILL HANDLE FREE OF CHARGE THE FILING OF THE NECESSARY APPLICATIONS THAT A FOREIGN CITIZEN HAS TO MAKE IN ORDER TO OWN PROPERTY IN MEXICO.



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